



Reply to Office Action of November 23 2005

1. Request for Continued Examination is hereby submitted.

2. Claim Rejections:

We respectfully disagree with the Examiner and maintain that our invention is not disclosed in Examiners cited prior art (ECPA), Cusak et al ("Automatic Load Contour Mapping) and Tsironis (US patent 6,297,649) nor in AAPA. We provide evidence of this.

Claim Rejections:

Citation from Examiner's OA, page 3: "Regarding claim 8, Tsironis discloses probes being made of cylindrical horizontal dielectric inserts (Figures 10-11)".

This citation does not describe the facts correctly: In US patent 6,297,649, "Harmonic rejection load pull tuner", Tsironis does not disclose any horizontal dielectric probes. In fact Figure 10 of Tsironis refers to prior art, which exclusively uses vertical metallic non-contacting probes. This is technically sound, because, in a slotted airline (slabline) the electric field is concentrated towards the lateral metallic walls, and a non-contacting dielectric probe, inserted vertically from the top, would have only a very weak effect, thus not generating an important reflection factor and therefore being useless as a tuner.

Figure 11 of Tsironis discloses vertical metallic contacting resonating probes. The only dielectric part in this is only supporting material of the metallic rods, which are the